



Educational Topic

Flight Service Station Manager

Related Job Titles:

Flight Service Station Director, Flight Weather Briefer

Job Description:

This position is found at each area's Flight Service Station, which are maintained by the FAA. A Flight Service Station provides private pilots with the current and forecasted weather data and information they need to plan and make a safe flight. Private pilots call or stop in at the Flight Service Station in their area to update their weather information, submit their flight plan or gather pertinent flight information. As a manager, the primary work deals with supervising the employees (briefers, controllers, meteorologists). This means dealing with people-related issues and performance evaluation. A Flight Service Station Manager must be completely knowledgeable in the work being done by all employees as well as in techniques that motivate employees to the highest performance standards. Employees at the Flight Service Stations must gather weather information and data for the area in which they service and be able to communicate the weather data, suggested routes and, terrain details to pilots who call or come in. The work is quite varied and would also require radar scope monitoring, radio communications with private pilots, flight planning assistance as well as the weather data gathering and dissemination.

Interests / Abilities:

- Do you like to read weather maps and charts?
- Do you enjoy interacting with people and providing them useful information?
- Can you motivate people to work as a team?
- Do you enjoy motivating people toward self-improvement?
- Are you able to speak clearly and provide clear, concise directions?
- Do you enjoy doing a variety of different tasks each day?

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Physics
- Aeronautics (the science of flight)
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Meteorology
- Geography and mapping
- Speech
- Interpersonal communications

Education / Training Needed:

A four year college degree must be obtained before initiation of Air Traffic Control (ATC) training. You must then successfully pass the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aptitude test before beginning Air Traffic Control Training through the FAA. Management training courses are essential for this job.

Areas of expertise:

- *Human resources management*
- *Weather data research and information gathering*
- *Knowledge of weather charts, graphs and maps*
- *Flight planning and aeronautical chart reading*

Additional Resources:

- Earth to Orbit: Engineering Design Challenges
<http://eto.nasa.gov/>
- FAA Academy Homepage
<http://www.academy.jccbi.gov/>
- FAA Automated Flight Service Station
<http://www.faa.gov/ats/>
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
<http://www.faa.gov/>
- Graduate Student Researchers Program
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Graduate.Student.Researchers.Program.Brochure/.index.html>
- MATHCOUNTS Competition
<http://mathcounts.org/>
- Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (FAA Training Center)
<http://www.mmac.jccbi.gov/mmac>
- Minority University Research and Education Programs
<http://mured.nasaprs.com/>
- NASA Cooperative Education Program for college students
<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Educational.Services/NASA.Education.Programs/Student.Support/NASA.Cooperative.Education.Program/.index.html>
- NASA Jobs
<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/>
- NASA SHARP Internship Program for high-schoolers
<http://www.mtsibase.com/sharp/>
- NASA Student Employment
http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/stud_opps/employment/index.htm

What can I do right now?

- Join a group like the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and participate in their activities.
- Learn how to read all types of geographical maps, aeronautical charts, and weather maps and charts.
- Take a ground school course.
- Get work experience where you have to deal with the public over the phone.
- Review a preparation book for becoming an air traffic controller.
- Volunteer to work at a Flight Service Station to get an idea of what the work is like.
- View the NASA/FAA CD-ROM *Gate to Gate* to learn more about the air traffic management system. *Gate to Gate* is available through NASA CORE for a minimum fee. <http://core.nasa.gov>
- Visit a Flight Service Station near where you live.

- NASA Student Involvement Program student contests
<http://www.nsip.net/index.cfm>
- Revolutionary Vehicle Concepts and Systems student competition
<http://avst.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.html>
- Tech-Interns.com
<http://www.tech-interns.com/>

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[http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational topic](http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational%20topic)

Your evaluation and suggestions are vital to continually improving NASA educational materials. Thank you.



<http://quest.nasa.gov/people/index.html>

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ET-2004-10-128-ARC